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LEISURE LAND USE POLICY
FOR ALBERTA

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RECOMMENDATIONS FROM
THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON A PARKS AND LEISURE LAND USE POLICY
to the ALBERTA GOVERNMENT RECREATION COMMITTEE

MAY 1973

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CORRIGENDA

Policy No. 4. Add Agriculture to the list of Agencies Concerned
6. Add Agriculture to the List of Agencies Concerned
9. Add Agriculture to the list of Agencies Concerned
16. Add Agriculture to the list of Agencies Responsible

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Membership of the Sub-Committee on a Parks and Leisure Land Use Policy

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Mr. T. A. Drinkwater	Department of Lands and Forests
Mr. C. I. Greene	Travel Alberta
Mr. D. A. Hayes	Travel Alberta
Ms. J. L. C. McCracken	Department of Agriculture
Mr. W. Munn	Department of Lands and Forests

SECRETARY

Ms. P. A. Bonnett	Alberta Government Recreation Committee

"By concentrating solely on the preservation of national parks - by elevating them to the role of holy shrines above the dung heap in which we live most of our days - we may succeed in preserving them for a decade or two after the rest of our home is entirely destroyed, but then they too will surely fall. Only a nation with the concept of 'The Nation as a Park' can hope to preserve our national parks in perpetuity - not as examples as beauty alone among man's ugliness but as examples of nature's grand untouched beauty as contrasted to the tiny beauties that man has managed to forge."

G. M. Weinberg
May 1970
The National Parks and
Conservation Magazine

INTRODUCTION

The Alberta Government Recreation Committee at its meeting in April 1972, discussed the proposed resort development at Lake Louise, Banff National Park and with encouragement from the Hon. R. W. Dowling, Hon. H. A. Schmid and Hon. W. J. Yurko, established a sub-committee to prepare recommendations for policy on land use related to recreation. This small group comprising representatives from several departments agreed to consider provincial and national parks in the context of all forms of leisure land use.

The general principles followed throughout the discussions have been:1) encouraging the wise use of resources; 2) ensuring the availability of alternative options in the future; 3) ensuring that irreversible changes are not accidentally or inadvertently precipitated; 4) prevention rather than cure, through the correct use of planning devices and the application of proven management technology; 5) maintenance of ecological stability through diversity.

As a result of the many hours of discussion and reading that preceded the preparation of the policy statements that follow, the sub-committee realized that to maintain parks and protected areas of the landscape while allowing environmental degradation to proceed without check outside of park areas, is unacceptable. The sub-committee favours a concept of the entire province as a park; a valued place where the residents feel responsible for maintaining the beauty and usefulness of the environment for a variety of purposes into the long term future. It is nevertheless still necessary to establish an adequate system of protected areas. The sub-committee endorses the following recommendation presented at the Second World Conference on National Parks, 1972:

15. Planning of National Parks and Other Protected Areas

RECALLING Recommendation 12 of the First World Conference on National Parks concerning the need for planning of national parks and park systems;

RECOGNIZING the vital importance of a management plan as a basis for proper operation and management of such protected areas;

THE SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL PARKS, meeting at Grand Teton National Park, USA, in September 1972:

RECOMMENDS that the planning, development and management of national parks and other protected areas be fostered on a comprehensive and long-term basis within each country with careful attention to environmental protection and improvement, and in doing this so:

(1) that a system of protected areas be set up, embracing a variety of park areas and purposes;
(2) that the park needs of all the people of the country be taken into account;
(3) that parks be provided in many locations ranging from remote wilderness to metropolitan regions;
(4) that a balance be sought by zoning among the several uses of parks, ranging from conservation of nature to tourism;
(5) that compatible land-use practices be implemented outside the boundaries of national parks;
(6) that provision be made within or related to park systems for conservation of cultural features, historic areas and buildings;

URGES that strenuous efforts be made to ensure that national and regional plans include provision for park systems and especially that national investment programmes and budgets provide adequately for parks;

PROPOSES that a means be found for coordinating the planning of park systems among the various countries for their mutual advantage;

REQUESTS that all agencies concerned advance park systems planning, making full use of work already accomplished, initially stressing the following activities:

(a) a research programme to develop further the basis for methods of park systems planning;
(b) a technical aid programme for park systems planning and development;
(c) several demonstration projects in selected countries or regions and
(d) an information and education programme to acquaint interested persons with park systems approach and its advantages;

URGES all authorities concerned with national parks and other protected areas to develop a management plan for each protected area using skilled planning personnel and the results of scientific research and to adopt this management plan as the basis for operation and management of the area;

CALLS UPON all agencies providing technical assistance to give priority to requests for the services of such skilled planning personnel and for the training of such personnel;

AND STRESSES that provision for continuous ecological research and monitoring is essential in all park management planning.

The proposed Alberta Leisure Land Use Policy includes the relevant material from the report entitled "A Policy for Recreation in Alberta, Recommendations from the Alberta Government Recreation Committee". Thus this present document is complete in itself and can be read separately from the earlier report.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The following terms are used frequently throughout this document and are defined by the Sub-Committee as follows:

HIGH RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL

The identification of a particular tract of land as possessing high recreation potential will be based upon factors such as proximity and scarcity, in addition to the natural capability for recreation use. For example, in urban areas the volume of demand and the probable scarcity of natural areas and open space make the recreation value of undeveloped land significantly higher than if it were measured against some absolute scale of quality on a national level. The existing Canada Land Inventory uses an absolute scale and thus undeveloped land which as a result of its proximity to the urban population offers considerable recreation potential is nevertheless assigned a low rating. It is also recognized that recreation potential can be greatly improved with sound management, particularly if planning is commenced well in advance of the time that the site is to be actively used for recreation purposes.

LEISURE LAND USE

This term has been coined to allow the widest possible range of land uses associated with people's non-working hours to be considered. It is meant to include in addition to intensive recreation areas, land which does not have potential for mass use. For example, representative ecosystems protected for scientific and study purposes; special, small areas set aside to protect a unique resource and therefore not open to general use; large tracts of wilderness which for the majority of the populace are not directly usable yet have intrinsic value on a global scale.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE

This refers to the agency administratively responsible for the recommended policy and will carry out its task in co-operation with the other concerned agencies.

AGENCIES CONCERNED

This refers to those agencies involved from a planning and/or use point of view who will provide consultative services to the administrative agency.

It should be clearly understood that administration of the policies recommended herein, is intended to be conducted on a co-operative basis.

GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT A

will be the policy of this government to devise a mechanism to ensure the ordination of all land use planning in the Province of Alberta.

SPECIFIC POLICY

A Co-ordinating Agency for Land Use Planning

THE GOVERNMENT WILL AMEND THE PLANNING ACT (CHAP. 276, RSA 1970) TO PROVIDE THE PROVINCIAL PLANNING BOARD WITH POWERS, IN ADDITION TO THOSE IT NOW POSSESSES, TO CO-ORDINATE LAND USE PLANNING FOR THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA. WITHOUT LIMITING THE GENERALITY OF THE FOREGOING THESE POWERS WILL INCLUDE THE FORMULATION OF PROVINCIAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND GUIDELINES FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Municipal Affairs

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of the Attorney General, Culture, Youth and Recreation, Environment, Highways and Transport, Lands and Forests, Travel Alberta

RATIONALE:

While there are many agencies* involved in the planning of physical resources there is no single co-ordinating mechanism at a provincial level providing direction and guidance in all forms of development planning, and overseeing the preparation of an effective Provincial Plan. This situation is unsatisfactory since it increases the possibility of conflict in land-use allocation, and may lead to a lack of recognition of the interrelationship among various land use areas.

A Provincial Plan would comprise outline plans covering all types of resource development for each region of the Province. The basic land use

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* Departments of Agriculture, Culture, Youth and Recreation, Environment, Highways and Transport, Lands & Forests, Municipal Affairs, Municipal Planning Commission, Regional Planning Commissions, Travel Alberta, and various Committees

capability would be assessed and related to present and future demands. Where particular types of land use capability are low compared to the present and projected demands, consideration would be given to the potential for land management programs to enhance the capability to meet the needs.

Considering the changes suggested in the next two pages, the Provincial Planning Board appears to be a suitable agency to effect the co-ordination of all planning activity and at the same time allow planners to assume a more positive role within their respective departments. This co-ordination could be achieved without creating an additional planning body. Other benefits which may derive from the proposed changes include the decentralization of the planning function on a regional basis and the possibility of greatly enchancing public participation in the planning process.

We wish to recommend that this proposal be referred to the Provincial Planning Board for their review and comment.

THE PROVINCIAL PLANNING BOARD-A COORDINATING AGENCY

The responsibility for planning and decision making in Alberta resides at several governmental levels including Provincial, Regional and Municipal.

1. Provincial Level

   a. Policy

   There are many major, policy planning and regulatory groups such as the Natural Resources Co-ordinating Council, Provincial Planning Board, Conservation and Utilization Committee, Alberta Government Recreation Committee, Energy Resources Conservation Board and the Local Authorities Board, etc.,

   b. Management

   Similarly, there are several technical planning, advisory and project groups, for example: Land Use Assignment Committee, Task Force on Subdivision Development adjacent to Water Bodies, the Sub-Committee on Leisure Land Use Policy, etc.,

2. Regional Level

   The Regional Planning Commissions and the Planning Branch of the Department of Municipal Affairs formulate the planning policy at this level.

3. Municipal Level

   Similarly, the municipalities and the Municipal Planning Commissions formulate planning policy at this level.

4. The Provincial Planning Board

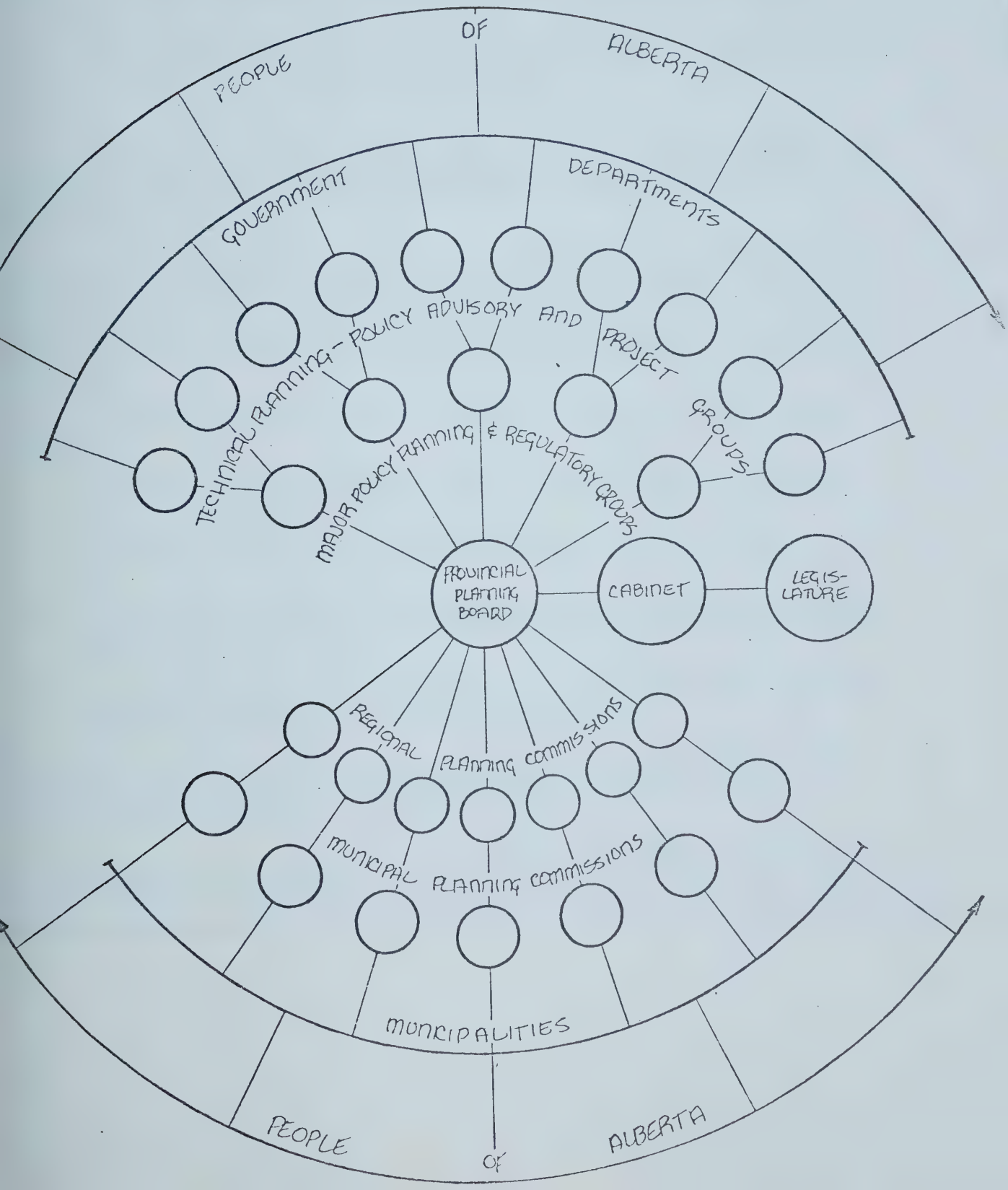
   a. Present Functions

   While the Provincial Planning Act in principle suggests a broad range of responsibilities and functions for the Board, in practice the Board's activities have tended to be dominated by its responsibility for hearings and appeals. It is recognised however, that the Board is giving increasing attention to its other responsibilities and in this connection has reviewed its position and reported to the Minister of Municipal Affairs regarding its proposed reorganization.

   b. Proposed Functions

   In addition to the responsibilities included in the current legislation the Board would be charged with the responsibility for co-ordinating land use planning in the province. The functions of the Board would then include, co-ordination of the various policy making committees, the Regional Planning Commissions, and the Departmental Planning Sections; formulation of policy; arrangement of public hearings and appeals; provision of public information, and funding.

   The attached diagram depicts the basic structural elements of a system designed to both co-ordinate and conduct planning in Alberta. In this diagram will be found the following terms, and they are defined as follows:


PEOPLE
OF
ALBERTA
GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENTS
TECHNICAL PLANNING - POLICY ADVISORY AND PROJECT
MAJOR POLICY PLANNING & REGULATORY GROUPS
GROUPS
PROVINCIAL PLANNING BOARD
CABINET
LEGIS-LATURE
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS
MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS
MUNICIPALITIES
PEOPLE
OF
ALBERTA

i. Major policy, planning and regulatory groups - this includes groups such as the Conservation and Utilization Committee, the Alberta Government Recreation Committee, and the Local Authorities Board, etc.,

ii. Technical planning - policy advisory and project groups - This includes groups such as the Land Use Assignment Committee and the Leisure Land Use Sub-Committee, etc.,

On the basis of the information obtained through its co-ordinating activities the Board would formulate policy and make recommendations to the Cabinet. It would also be empowered to ensure the implementation of approved policies through all appropriate agencies.

In this proposed system it is suggested that the Provincial Planning Branch be strengthened as the planning section of the Department of Municipal Affairs, rather than a special arm of the Board. This would increase the possibility of providing appropriate urban resource-planning-information at the provincial level. All other forms of resource planning would be conducted within the appropriate provincial departments.

It is suggested that the Provincial Planning Board be initially responsible for the following:

1. Collection of policy statements from all provincial government agencies, and regional planning commissions.

2. In consultation with these agencies, to resolve conflicts between the policies of different agencies.

3. Formulate comprehensive and compatible statements based upon the planning policies of all agencies as a basis for the development of a provincial land use policy.

4. In consultation with the agencies involved, to co-ordinate the development of a provincial plan based upon the agreed policies.

The acceptance of this type of system would suggest a need to establish a major committee of similar status to the Conservation and Utilization Committee to consider the social aspects of resource development.

In summary, the Provincial Planning Board would have the responsibility to maintain a continuing relationship between the general objectives, policy, programmes, and projects related to the formulation and implementation of provincial plan. The Board would not assume tasks that are currently assigned to existing agencies and institutions.

Policies Broadly Related to Ensuring That Land With Recreation Potential is Made Available to the General Public.

GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT B

It will be the policy of this government to make all areas identified as possessing high recreational potential available for public use, where this is consistent with land use management objectives.

SPECIFIC POLICIES

2. Availability of Land With High Recreation Potential
3. A Leisure Land Bank
4. Acquisition and Development Priorities
5. Acquisition of Public Shore Line in Existing Sub-Divisions
6. Right of Access to Public Lands
7. Purchase of Easements
8. Expropriation of Leisure Land
9. Creation of Recreation Potential in Urban Areas
10. Control of Sale of Undeveloped, Legal Road Allowances
11. Encouragement of Public Use of Private Recreation Land
12. Urban Open Space
13. Public Reserve in Re-Zoned Areas
14. Co-ordinated Trail Development

THE GOVERNMENT WILL OFFICIALLY DESIGNATE THOSE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS IN THE PROVINCE DEEMED TO HAVE HIGH RECREATION POTENTIAL, AND EMBARK ON A PROGRAM TO ENSURE THEIR AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Lands and Forests

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, Attorney General, Culture, Youth and Recreation, Environment, Highways and Transport, Municipal Affairs

RATIONALE:

It is necessary, if people generally are to benefit from the recreational use of natural areas, that special provision be made to enable them to do so. These areas must be first identified, then appropriate strategies devised in order to ensure their availability for public use.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ESTABLISH A LAND BANK FOR LEISURE LAND USES.

GENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Lands and Forests

GENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, Culture, Youth and Recreation, Environment, and Travel Alberta

ATIONALE:

The demand for outdoor recreation exercised by urban populations is continuing to grow at a fast rate as affluence and hours free of paid employment increase. Land suited to a variety of recreation purposes is usually available in and around small urban centers but as development progresses this land acquires value for construction purposes and the per unit cost rises dramatically thus effectively making it unavailable for leisure purposes.

The purpose of a land bank would be to purchase such land in advance of projected needs. It is suggested that the value of a land bank concept can be illustrated by reviewing the reports of the Edmonton Regional Planning Commission written in the early 1960's where details may be found of land which it was recommended should be set aside for recreation purposes. A look at the distribution of city park land today together with a consideration of the demand now evident, and the land values prevailing within the city region should serve to amply demonstrate the tragedy of not securing adequate open space when the cost of land is low.

Land that is acquired before it is needed does not necessarily have to be developed or managed for park purposes. It may be held in a natural state and used for purposes such as environmental education, bird or plant habitat, or protected and left without use or management. Where the land purchased has been intensively cultivated then management may be necessary to achieve a desirable vegetation cover twenty years in the future.

Consideration should be given to the strategy of the Government placing an option for purchase on all patented land deemed to possess high recreation value, in order to ensure that this value is retained.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL FACILITATE THE PUBLIC ACQUISITION OF LEISURE LAND-USE AREAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING PRIORITIES:

1. LAND WHICH IS UNDER PRESSURE FOR DEVELOPMENT, YET SHOULD BE RETAINED IN OPEN SPACE USES.
2. AREAS REQUIRED TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE SPECIFIC CULTURAL, HERITAGE AND RECREATION RESOURCES
3. AREAS SERVING REGIONAL CLIENTELE

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Lands and Forests

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, Culture, Youth and Recreation, Environment, and Municipal Affairs

RATIONALE:

Land for leisure use is most urgently needed in and adjacent to major population centers. Such land is in short supply since it is under pressure to be developed for industrial, commercial and residential purposes. As a result regional populations are increasingly badly served in terms of land for leisure activities in their daily lives. At the other end of the scale, wilderness and unique natural communities are in need of protection since they are also irreplaceable once destroyed.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL EMBARK ON A LONG TERM PROGRAM OF ACQUIRING A BUFFER STRIP OF PUBLIC LAND AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED FEET IN WIDTH FROM THE BED AND BANK LINE OF CROWN BODIES OF WATER WHERE SUCH LAND IS CURRENTLY PRIVATELY OWNED OR CONTROLLED.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Lands and Forests

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, Culture, Youth and Recreation, Environment, and Municipal Affairs

RATIONALE:

In keeping with the purposes of Specific Policy Statement 2.0 it is deemed necessary that the government prepare a program of land purchase to provide the buffer strip wherever subdivisions in the past have not included same. Once such land is made available for public use the government will accept responsibility for any necessary policing and maintenance of the area in a clean and tidy condition.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ENSURE THAT THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO ALL PUBLIC LAND AND WATER WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE AREAS DESIGNATED AS IN NEED OF SPECIAL PROTECTION, SUCH AS WATERSHED PROTECTION AREAS, SCIENTIFIC RESERVES AND FIRE PROTECTION AREAS.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Lands and Forests

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, Attorney General and Highways and Transport

RATIONALE:

Access does not necessarily mean vehicular access. All public land and water bodies can be said to have some recreational potential. Those areas currently inaccessible because they are surrounded by private land or because they are leased should have provisions devised that allow interested people access to them.

WHERE DEEMED IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THE GOVERNMENT WILL ACQUIRE SCENIC AND/OR ACCESS EASEMENTS TO ENHANCE THE FUNCTIONAL AND/OR AESTHETIC VALUE OF LEISURE USE LAND.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Environment

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Attorney General, Highways and Transport, Lands and Forests, and Municipal Affairs.

RATIONALE:

In order to meet the burgeoning demand for open space and leisure land, a second strategy to supplement acquisition of land is desirable. The purchase of easements can effectively achieve, over the short term, the same objectives as outright purchase of the land. The various forms of easement should be investigated and consideration given to the need for fiscal incentives to keep land in an undeveloped condition. Such techniques of retaining open space are particularly valuable where most of the land in a district is privately owned.

WHERE DEEMED IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THE GOVERNMENT WILL FACILITATE EXPROPRIATION OF LAND SUITABLE FOR LEISURE LAND USES.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Environment

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, Attorney General, Culture, Youth and Recreation and Lands and Forests

RATIONALE:

In those cases where patented land is of high recreation value and mere access is inadequate, it may be in the public interest to expropriate the land. Expropriation should be used as a tool in accordance with an integrated, long-term, leisure land-use plan, which takes into account present and future needs for all types of recreation areas, - from neighbourhood playgrounds, to wilderness areas, and ecological reserves - and includes proper location of visitor accomodation and facilities.

LAND WHICH IS AVAILABLE WITHIN AND ADJACENT TO URBAN CENTRES THAT IS [illegible] WILL BE A [illegible] FOR RECREATION PURPOSES.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Lands and Forests

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, Environment, and Municipal Affairs

RATIONALE:

With the acknowledged demand for recreation facilities readily accessible to the urban populace, it is sensible to consider all possible types of land for conversion to this use. Land which may not, under such a classification scheme as the Canada Land Inventory, rate as possessing high value for recreation may nevertheless respond to appropriate management and provide badly needed leisure acreage. For example, recreation value could be "built" into agricultural land in the urban-rural transition zone, utility rights-of-way, abandoned railroad rights-of-way, gravel and sand quarries and worked out or defunct oil company land.

Even quite small parcels of land can provide visual relief in a highly urbanized district. For example, in Europe some municipalities now plant trees on all vacant lots to improve the visual environment and help decrease noise pollution. Not all undeveloped urban land should be given over to active recreation use, some should be maintained for its visual and ecological or conservation value.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ENSURE THAT LAND CONTAINED WITHIN UNDEVELOPED, LEGAL ROAD ALLOWANCES WILL BE RETAINED FOR BOTH ITS PUBLIC ACCESS PURPOSES AND ITS AESTHETIC QUALITIES. IT WILL NOT BE LEASED OR SOLD EXCEPT AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CABINET.

AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE:

Departments of Highways and Transport, Lands and Forests.

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, Environment, and Municipal Affairs

RATIONALE:

Private land is increasingly unavailable for public use and this necessitates that as much Crown land as possible be made available to the public. In agricultural areas this is particularly important. There are demonstrable benefits from the retention of undeveloped road allowances which act as public access and use corridors while at the same time providing critical wildlife habitat. Wooded road allowances also enhance the aesthetic quality of the agricultural landscape, thus making it more attractive for recreational use by both local urban populations and tourists.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL DEVELOP MECHANISMS THAT ENCOURAGE PRIVATE LAND OWNERS WHOSE LANDS HAVE RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL, TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC ACCESS TO THEM.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of the Attorney General

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, Culture, Youth and Recreation, Environment, Industry and Commerce, and Lands and Forests

RATIONALE:

Increases in the demand for outdoor recreation will place a heavy burden on the resources of public land within easy reach of urban centers. There is therefore, a need to find ways of bringing private land into use for recreational purposes. The Government will seek mechanisms to give some form of financial compensation to private land owners who open up their land to the public for the purpose of hunting, or other recreation activities. Furthermore, ways will be found to relieve the private landowner of liability for the safety of those using their land . (See Appendix A - Sample Legislation from the U.S. -)

THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZING THAT OPEN SPACE IN AREAS OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT WARRANTS EQUAL PRIORITY WITH ALL OTHER USES WILL SEEK WAYS OF ASSISTING MUNICIPALITIES TO IMPROVE THEIR OPEN SPACE SYSTEMS.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Municipal Affairs

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Culture, Youth and Recreation, Environment, Lands and Forests

RATIONALE:

An open-space system is needed in every urban centre. While our existing Planning Act provides for the designation of public reserve for school and public recreation areas, it is not sufficient to merely have random pieces of land left over after development has occurred, nor is it sensible to sacrifice some of this to locate highways for the relief of unanticipated traffic congestion. A well-proportioned open-space system, comprising parks and natural areas linked by "greenways" should be an urban land-use given equal priority with all other forms of demand for land. In such a system it is possible to retain significant, natural features within the urban matrix and at the same time, keep the surrounding countryside accessible and visible to all urban dwellers.

THE PRINCIPLE OF PROVIDING PUBLIC RESERVE WILL BE EXTENDED TO RE-ZONED AND RE-DEVELOPED AREAS; IN AREAS WHERE DENSITY IS GREATER THAN IS COMMONLY FOUND IN SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL ZONES, AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF PUBLIC RESERVE WILL BE PROVIDED.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Municipal Affairs

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of the Environment and Lands and Forests

RATIONALE:

With an increase in the practice of scheduling areas of higher density than formerly existed, there arises the need to ensure adequate provision of open space if the recreation needs of the new residents are to be accommodated.

IN ORDER TO PROMOTE A PLANNED TRAIL SYSTEM IN ALBERTA, THE GOVERNMENT WILL ASSIST CITIZEN GROUPS ACTIVE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RECREATION TRAILS AND FACILITATE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE SEVERAL GROUPS.

AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE:

Departments of Culture, Youth and Recreation and Lands and Forests

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, Environment, Highways and Transport and Travel Alberta

RATIONALE:

Trails are an essential element in a comprehensive open-space system since they provide the linkage between developed as well as informal recreation areas. Interest in trails on the part of the public has increased enormously in recent years. Various associations, organizations, government agencies, and others have developed trails in different parts of the Province but no attempt has been made to co-ordinate this development. If certain standards are to be maintained and land use conflicts avoided, it is essential that some co-operative planning be conducted well in advance of the actual development of any specific trail.

Policies Broadly Related to Protection of Recreation Potential

GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT C

It will be the policy of this Government to protect and maintain the Recreation potential of the natural environment.

SPECIFIC POLICIES

15. A System to Promote Orderly Development of Recreation
16. Protection of Unique Resources
17. Conservation in the Rocky Mountain and Foothills Region
18. Protection of Critical Habitat
19. A Comprehensive Leisure Area System
20. Wilderness Areas Protection
21. Natural Rivers Protection
22. Minimizing the Detrimental Impact of Recreation Upon the Environment
23. Environmental Impact Statements
24. Control of Land Disposition in the Green Zone
25. Conditional Leases for Land Outside of the Green Zone
26. Provision of Public Shoreline in All New Sub-Division Adjacent to Water Bodies
27. Buffer Zones
28. Land Management Research
29. Maximum User Capacity
30. Beautification Program
31. Maximizing Alternative Uses of Land Following Extractive Activity

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA WILL DEVELOP A VISITOR ACCOMMODATION AND RECREATION DEVELOPMENT ZONING SYSTEM FOR LAND DEEMED TO BE OF HIGH RECREATION POTENTIAL. THE PURPOSE OF THE ZONING SYSTEM WILL BE TO ENCOURAGE THE ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES AND PREVENT THE DESTRUCTION OR IMPAIRMENT OF AREAS OF SCENIC AND/OR ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE.

THE ZONING POLICY WILL DESIGNATE CERTAIN ZONES INCLUDING:

ZONE A AREAS WHICH WOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR INTENSIVE FACILITY-ORIENTED ACCOMMODATION AND RECREATION (eg. MOTELS, GOLF COURSES, SKI FACILITIES, AND SOME CAMPGROUNDS.)

ZONE B AREAS WHICH WOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR FACILITY-ORIENTED ACCOMMODATION AND RECREATION OF LOW INTENSITY USE (eg. LODGES, SOME CAMPGROUNDS AND TRAILS.)

ZONE C AREAS WHICH WOULD BE PRESERVED FOR PRIMITIVE ACCOMODATION AND RECREATION (eg. PRIMITIVE CAMPING AREAS AND TRAILS)

THE ZONING POLICY WILL ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS FOR PROVINCIAL PARKS, NATIONAL PARKS, WILDERNESS AREAS, AND WILDLAND RECREATION AREAS WITHIN ALBERTA'S BOUNDARIES.

AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE:

Departments of Lands and Forests, Travel Alberta

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, Culture, Youth and Recreation, Environment, Highways and Transport, Municipal Affairs

RATIONALE:

It is the present policy of the Government to encourage Albertans and visitors to travel throughout Alberta, in search of recreational opportunities, a better understanding of Alberta's features, and relaxation.

Provision must therefore be made to encourage the development of facilities to accommodate all of these travellers according to their varied demands, in a way which will conserve the environment, and make optimal use of available land resources given present and future need for the land.

It is recommended that areas designated as Zone A (land available for intensive facility-oriented use) be as much as possible restricted to land in close proximity to highways and existing access roads, and land within an approximate ten-mile radius of existing townsite developments. (eg. Grande Cache, Hinton, Nordegg, Canmore, and Blairmore-Coleman)

It follows that Zone C (land reserved for primitive accommodation and recreation) would comprise land that is least accessible to motorized vehicles, and land that has important scenic or ecological value. Zone B land would likely comprise some of the land falling between Zones A and C.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ENSURE THAT LAND CONTAINING UNIQUE AND REPRESENTATIVE PHYSICAL, BIOLOGICAL, ARCHEOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL FEATURES IS IDENTIFIED AND PROTECTED.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Lands and Forests

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, Attorney General, Culture, Youth and Recreation, Education, Environment, Highways, and Municipal Affairs

RATIONALE:

Unique and representative features of our province deserve protection and interpretation to both provincial residents and visitors. Features which demonstrate the unique history of the province are worthy of pride and special consideration since they help us to understand our cultural development and place in human society. Such resources have tended to be undervalued by industrial societies yet information about our historical and cultural roots is increasingly sought by many Albertans today. We should avoid having to reconstruct another Fort Edmonton in Alberta. No representative or significant feature of the diverse cultural background of our citizens should be lost because it was not given protection.

A similar argument can be advanced for the proper protection and management of important and representative biological and geological phenomena since they contribute to the overall diversity of the human environment.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ENSURE THAT THE EASTERN SLOPES OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS WILL BE MANAGED IN SUCH A MANNER THAT THE EXISTING MOUNTAIN AND FOOTHILL ENVIRONMENT WILL REMAIN BASICALLY UNCHANGED AND BE PRESERVED IN AS NATURAL A STATE AS POSSIBLE TO PROTECT THE WATERSHED.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Lands and Forests

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, Environment, and Travel Alberta

RATIONALE:

A recurring statement found throughout this policy document emphasises that land is a finite and irreplaceable resource. The mountain and foothill areas in Alberta outside of Jasper, Banff, and Waterton National Parks constitute less than ten percent of the total land area of Alberta. Since the start of the construction of the forestry trunk road in 1946, land sales and dispositions in the form of leases for skiing areas, private cottage subdivisions, and roads, in addition to land grants to native peoples have increasingly eroded the total area of undeveloped mountain and foothill land in this Province. Construction of major, paved road access and development of the several proposed commercial facilities will place an ever-increasing burden on the ability of this area of the Province to withstand use in the future, without deteriorating the quality of the resource.

There is therefore a need to exercise strict management controls in order to protect the basic watershed resource.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ENSURE THAT CRITICAL HABITAT AREAS AND FRAGILE ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS ARE IDENTIFIED AND PROTECTED IN A NATURAL STATE.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Lands and Forests

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, and Environment

RATIONALE:

Land and its associated living systems is a finite and irreplaceable resource, which can too easily be mismanaged due to a lack of foresight and understanding. The purpose of management should be to ensure that the maximum diversity of species is maintained in as many locations as possible. Genetic and species diversity are essential factors contributing to a stable environment. In the planning of a region the non-consumptive use of animals and plants should be accorded as high a priority as recreational hunting if particular parcels of land have critical importance as habitat.

Certain sites and areas of the Province for a variety of reasons including, latitude, bed rock conditions, soil parent material, past and present geological activity, elevation, aspect, slope, and climatic conditions are "fragile." These areas and sites are at a critical level of stability and with only a minimum amount of disturbance can be damaged. The decreased stability creates problems that may be felt far from the site or area of initial disturbance. For lack of some degree of protection and managerial care, exploitation of one resource may then create excessive social and monetary costs because of the effect upon other resources.

A COMPLEMENTARY, COMPREHENSIVE, MULTI-LEVEL INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF LEISURE AREAS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND MANAGED TO MEET THE RECREATION NEEDS AND DESIRES OF RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA.

AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE:

Departments of Culture, Youth and Recreation, Lands and Forests

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs, Highways & Transport, Municipal Affairs, Travel Alberta

RATIONALE:

A system of leisure areas is badly needed in Alberta to adequately service a whole series of different activities and maintain a variety of natural landscapes. It would require considerable co-operation between the several jurisdictions if a truly integrated system, able to provide joint planning and decision-making on land acquisition, long-term management strategies and leisure programs was established. Thus communication between Provincial, Federal, and Municipal agencies would be the key to a successful comprehensive, leisure area system.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, a) the following broad categories of areas shall be included: -

Urban intensive recreation areas

Extra-urban intensive recreation areas

Natural environment areas

Outstanding or representative landscape areas

Unique resource sites

Wildland recreation areas

Special Study areas

Wilderness

(See Appendix E - An example of an Open Space System)

b) To guide in the selection, promotion and/or development of such a system, a set of criteria and guidelines shall be formulated which will then be consistently used in implementing this policy

i. Selection of areas - criteria will be established concerning the following: -

Details of each type area

Geographical distribution of leisure areas

Numbers of a particular type of area

Priorities for acquisition of each type area

Administrative arrangements

ii. Guidelines for promotion - promotion of an area will be compatible with the intended use of that area

iii. Guidelines for development and management - all areas will be developed in accordance with the objectives for which a specific area has been set aside. Management plans will be prepared for individual leisure areas and zoning will be included where appropriate.

ADDITIONAL WILDERNESS AREAS WILL BE DESIGNATED AND PROTECTED UNDER THE PRESENT LEGISLATION.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Lands and Forests

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Culture, Youth and Recreation, Environment, Travel Alberta

RATIONALE:

In view of the specific and rigid requirements in designating wilderness areas, and the rapidly decreasing resource, it is necessary to devote immediate attention to setting aside suitable wilderness areas. While wilderness users only represent a small minority of the public, if it is recognized that such areas have values dependent not merely upon use of the area then strong government action will be needed to protect adequate size areas from the many competing uses to which they might be subjected.

In the future the demand for wilderness recreation experiences may rise significantly and there will be a need to have wilderness areas closer to the city than the foothills and mountain area. Consideration should be given to setting aside a prairie wilderness area.

EXISTING MACHINERY WILL BE USED TO SET ASIDE SOME RIVERS IN THEIR NATURAL STATE AND ALSO BUY A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF LAND ALONG THE BANKS OF THESE WATERWAYS.

AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE:

Departments of Environment and Lands and Forests

AGENCY CONCERNED:

Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation

RATIONALE:

Rivers and streams are public corridors linking all parts of our Province; they provide essential services in a variety of ways. In a society such as ours, where significant changes are occurring many features which have in the past been taken for granted, become of vital importance in providing a variety of satisfying and healthy opportunities for personal development. Wild and natural rivers are as vital to the satisfactory evolution of our rapidly changing society as are national parks and wilderness areas. As uncontrolled and undeveloped features they provide exciting opportunities for viewing, fishing and canoeing. They also provide a real link with the historical beginning of this country since they were the transportation routes and the sites of the social nodes of both the fur trader and the Indian.

Rivers and valleys maintained in their natural state, are readily accessible to most urban dwellers and can if protected, provide open-space within cities and a "greenway" link to rural Alberta. The protection of natural corridors with potential sites for development nodes is necessary at this time since it is more economical to set aside areas in advance of need and it also allows long-term planning on a rational basis.

RECREATION OF ALL FORMS WILL BE PLANNED AND OPERATED SO AS TO MINIMIZE DETRIMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND OPTIMIZE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Environment

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, Culture, Youth and Recreation, Highways and Transport, Lands and Forests, Travel Alberta

RATIONALE:

The Provincial government is responsible for the conservation of the resources found in Alberta. Alberta has many natural assets including an interesting collection of landscape forms, a diversity of wildlife species, a varied flora, and a cultural heritage which finds its orgins in many different nations. Recreation experiences can be greatly enhanced by a diverse and beautiful environment but some forms of recreation, unless controlled, may cause irreparable damage.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS WILL BE REQUIRED FROM ANY INDIVIDUAL, GROUP, COMPANY OR GOVERNMENT AGENCY DESIROUS OF DEVELOPING A RECREATION FACILITY OR USING A TRACT OF LAND FOR RECREATION PURPOSES. APPROVAL WILL NOT BE GRANTED UNTIL THE DEVELOPER HAS FURNISHED COMPLETE INFORMATION TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE APPROVAL AGENCY

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Environment

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, Culture, Youth and Recreation, Lands and Forests, Municipal Affairs, and Travel Alberta

RATIONALE:

Recreation development can produce spill-over effects on adjacent land or water and should therefore be controlled in respect to these potential effects. Provided that design of facilities and type of use to which the land is subjected are considered in relation to the natural characteristics of the site, deterioration of the environment can be minimised.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT SELL ANY LAND IN THE GREEN ZONE CONTROLLED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTS, RATHER SUCH LAND WILL BE LEASED WHERE THERE IS A LEGITIMATE PRIVATE INTEREST AND WHERE SUCH LEASING WILL NOT JEOPARDIZE THE PUBLIC WELL-BEING.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Lands and Forests

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Environment, Travel Alberta

RATIONALE:

While Alberta presently appears to have an abundance of public lands, only vague forecasts of the future needs and demands of Albertans can be made. In preparation for meeting future demands it is preferable to maintain the greatest degree of flexibility possible. This flexibility can best be provided if ownership of the land is in the hands of the Crown and if such land can be reclaimed on relatively short notice.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ENSURE THAT NO CROWN LANDS OUTSIDE THE GREEN ZONE WILL BE SOLD OR LEASED WITHOUT CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO THE INCLUSION IN THE AGREEMENT OF CLAUSES CONCERNING LEISURE LAND USE OF SUCH LAND.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Lands and Forests

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, Attorney General, Culture, Youth and Recreation, Environment and Lands and Forests

RATIONALE:

An increasing public demand for a finite resource requires that as much as possible, land with high recreation potential is available for public use. Leased land will have some requirements attached in respect to both maintaining acceptable standards of environmental quality, and not adversely affecting possible future use for public recreation. Until such time as land-use capability studies are completed and assessed, no permanent disposition of public land should be sanctioned.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ENSURE THAT WHERE NEW SUBDIVISIONS ARE BEING CREATED ADJACENT TO CROWN BODIES OF WATER, A BUFFER STRIP OF PUBLIC LAND WILL BE PROVIDED AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED FEET IN WIDTH, FROM THE BED AND BANK LINE.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Municipal Affairs

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Lands and Forests, and Regional Planning Commission

RATIONALE:

A buffer strip ensures the provision of an aesthetically pleasing environment for those people using the water body for recreation activities. It also provides some assurance that user-generated pollution will not find its way into the water bodies. Where it is deemed necessary this strip can be utilized to provide pedestrian access for the public to permit use of the beach and water bodies. It would also reduce the probability of claims for riparian rights from adjacent land owners.

WHEN LANDS ARE DESIGNATED AND/OR ACQUIRED FOR LEISURE LAND USES, WHERE APPROPRIATE, ADDITIONAL PERIPHERAL LANDS SHALL BE DESIGNATED AND/OR ACQUIRED AS BUFFER ZONES TO PROTECT SUCH LANDS FROM ADJACENT USES. SUCH BUFFER ZONES SHALL BEAR THE SAME DESIGNATION AS THE LEISURE LAND CONTAINED WITHIN IT.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Lands and Forests

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, and Environment

RATIONALE:

It being the policy of the Government to protect and preserve areas of high recreation potential, it follows that an integral part of protecting such potential involves the designation of buffer zones. Experience has shown the importance of controlling the form of use on land adjacent to parks and other natural areas. Environmental side effects from certain types of land use are often far reaching and may severely limit the possibility of protecting an adjacent area for specific purposes. Buffer zones in which land-use is planned to be compatible with that of the principal protected area should be designated. However, it is reasoned that they be given the same designation as the protected area in order that they will not experience encroachment and eventually be so eroded as to not serve their purpose.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL IMPLEMENT A CONTINUING PROGRAM OF PRACTICAL RESEARCH IN LEISURE LAND-USE MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY LEADING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR EACH TYPE OF LEISURE LAND-USE AREA.

GENCIES RESPONSIBLE:

Departments of Environment and Lands and Forests

GENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, Culture, Youth and Recreation and Travel Alberta

ATIONALE:

Land which is used for any purpose on a regular and continuing basis can be maintained in a better physical condition through good management practices than it can if inappropriate management is applied. On any tract of land there is an intrinsic capacity for a particular form of use. With appropriate management it should be possible to retain this capacity while using the area over a long period of time. Due to peculiar climatic and soil conditions that prevail in Alberta, management techniques that are applicable in other areas of the North American continent are not directly transferable. A program to investigate and develop techniques for management suited to the local conditions is therefore urgently required. This would allow the development of management plans for all types of leisure land use areas to ensure their sustained use without deterioration of quality.

Land management plans should attempt to satisfactorily reconcile the conflicting interests of different users to achieve an integrated use of each land unit. This will be particularly important in the foothills are-

where longstanding conflicts exist between ranchers, wildlife managers and those responsible for maintaining the quality of the watershed.

A MAXIMUM USER CAPACITY WILL BE ESTABLISHED FOR EACH USE ZONE IN ALL LEISURE AREAS AND WILL NOT BE EXCEEDED.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE:

Department of Lands and Forests

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Culture, Youth and Recreation, Environment, and Travel Alberta

RATIONALE:

Any unit of landscape has a certain capacity to withstand use by consumers. In the event that this capacity is exceeded certain processes become evident and the ability to withstand further use without an almost complete loss of stability and a subsequent decline in esthetic values, is greatly diminished. Therefore, all development of leisure areas should be conducted with an understanding of a natural carrying capacity and an adherance to the limitations it imposes. It should be noted however, that employment of good management practices can in many cases provide a sustained carrying capacity close to the maximum.

A PROGRAM TO BEAUTIFY ROAD SIDES, AND PROPERTY BOUNDARIES WILL BE COMMENCED THROUGH A) ENCOURAGING TREE AND SHRUB PLANTING AND B) REDUCING THE TAX ASSESSMENT ON LAND WHICH IS RETAINED IN ITS NATURAL VEGETATED CONDITION.

AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE:

Departments of Highways and Transport, Municipal Affairs

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, Environment, Lands and Forests

RATIONALE:

The value of shelterbelts and small stands of trees is recognized; they may reduce snowdrifting, prevent erosion caused by both water and wind; they provide food and cover for a variety of animals and present a visually attractive contrast to the monotony of intensively cultivated land.

Pockets of mature tree cover interspersed in either an urban or rural landscape make for diversity of the environment and thus contribute to ecological stability.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL REQUIRE THAT THE EXTRACTION OF NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES FROM, PUBLIC AND OTHER LANDS, BE CONDUCTED SO AS TO ENSURE THE FUTURE USE OF THE LAND FOR ALTERNATIVE PURPOSES.

AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE:

Departments of Environment and Mines and Minerals.

AGENCIES CONCERNED:

Departments of Agriculture, Lands and Forests and Municipal Affairs

RATIONALE:

Land is a fixed resource and is the basis of all economic activities. The Provincial Government has a responsibility to the public for the conservation of the resources found in Alberta. Their wise use and management to maintain the widest possible range of alternative, future uses is of paramount importance. Each single use of land today should not jeopardize other potential uses tomorrow. The total social and monetary cost of resource use must be borne by the users of the resource, not by future generations who have not derived direct benefit.

As world stocks of fossil fuels and minerals become depleted at an ever increasing rate, it is inevitable that the demand for the extraction of the non-renewable resources of Alberta will grow. It is essential that other resources are not sacrificed in meeting this demand. Planned reclamation of all land used for resource extraction should be an integral part of the development process and take recognition of the fact that an opportunity is provided to produce diverse landscapes.

A P P E N D I X A

Liability of Private Landowners

The Code of Virginia contains provisions that no landowner who gives permission to another person to hunt, swim, trap, camp, hike or sightsee on his land shall be liable for that person's safety. The text of the Code is reproduced here for reference.

TITLE 8.

CIVIL REMEDIES AND PROCEDURE: EVIDENCE GENERALLY.

CHAPTER 29.

Injuries.

Article 6.

Miscellaneous Actions.

8-654-2 Duty of care and liability for damages of landowners to hunters, fishermen, sightseers, etc. - (a) For the purpose of this section "landowner" means the legal title holder, lessee, occupant or any other person in control of land or premises.

"Land" or"premises" means real property, waters, boats, private ways, natural growth, trees and any building or structure which might be located on such real property, waters, boats, private ways and natural growth.

(b) A landowner shall owe no duty of care to keep land or premises safe for entry or use by others for hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, water sports, hiking, sightseeing, nor shall a landowner be required to give any warning of hazardous conditions or uses of, structures on, or activities on such land or premises to any person entering on such land or premises for such purposes, except as provided in (d) hereof.

(c) Any landowner who gives permission to another person to hunt, swim, trap, camp, hike, or sightsee upon land or premises does not thereby;

(1) Impliedly or expressly represent that the premises are safe for such purposes; or

(2) Constitute the person to whom such permission has been granted an invitee to whom a duty of care is owned; or

(3) Assume responsibility for or incur liability for any intentional or negligent acts of such person or any other person, except as provided in (d) hereof.

(d) The provisions of this section shall not limit the liability which otherwise exists;

For wilful or malicious failure to guard or warn against a dangerous condition, use, structure or activity; or

For injuries suffered in any case where permission to hunt, fish, trap, camp, hike, or sightsee, or for any other legal purpose, was granted for a consideration other than the consideration, if any paid to such landowner by the State, the federal government or any other governmental agency. (1962, c. 545; 1964, c. 435)

A P P E N D I X B

OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

NODES

RESOURCE USE AREA ——→

SCIENTIFIC RESERVES ——→

ECOLOGICAL RESERVES ——→

CLASS I	RECREATION AREA
II	GENERAL OUTDOOR RECREATION AREA
III	HIGH QUALITY LANDSCAPE AREA a) Natural Environment Area b) Cultural Reserve c) Open Space in Developed Areas
IV	OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPE AREA a) Outstanding Natural Area b) Wildland Recreation Area
V	a) Wilderness b) Wild River

INCREASING RESTRICTION ON HUMAN IMPACT AND MANIPULATION OF NATURAL SYSTEM ↓

INCREASI... OF PARC... REQUIRE... ↓

LINKAGES -

ROADWAYS

RAILROADS RIGHT OF WAYS

UTILITY RIGHT OF WAY

RIVERS

SEISMIC CUTS

FORESTRY ROADS & TRAILS

HIKING & OTHER TRAILS

OPEN SPA

	PHYSICAL FEATURES	SIZE	LOCATION	PURPOSE AND FUNCTION	FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES
I	Topography and soil type suited to intensive use and management. Biologically productive area.	Variable 1/4 acre ↕ 50 acres	Within or near urban area. Easily accessible by a variety of transportation modes. USER-ORIENTED.	Provide recreation area suited to INTENSIVE day-use type activities	Roads, Parking Areas, Picnic Sites, Restau Swimming areas, Play Fields, Boat Rentals, Toilet & Showers Picnicking, Water Spo Field Games, Walking, Relaxing.
II	Varied topography, preferably wooded area and pastureland with water-front area. Amenable to intensive management.	Variable Several acres ↕ large tract	Within 20-40 mile radius. of urban centre. Easily accessible by a variety of transportation modes, including PUBLIC-TRANSPORT. USER-ORIENTED	Provide Recreation area for EXTENSIVE/INTENSIVE day and weekend type activities.	Access Roads, Parking Areas, Campgrounds, Picnic Sites, Marina Trails, Beaches, Stre Banks, Artificial La Stores, Museum, Stabl Showers, Toilets. Tent Camping, Trailer Camping, Picnicking, Fishing, Water Sports Walking , Relaxing
IIIa	Varied and scenic land-forms, watercourses and lakes. Native flora and fauna in natural setting	large tract	Within 40-100 mile radius of an urban centre RESOURCE ORIENTED	Provide recreation opport-unities in predominantly natural landscape, for EXTENSIVE weekend type activity	Access Roads, Parking Areas, Trails, Campin Sites, Primitive Fac-ilities only Tent Camping, Sight-Seeing, Hiking, Nature Study, Cycling, Nature Interpretation, Relaxi

IIIb	Historical Site	Variable	RESOURCE ORIENTED	Preserve and protect man-made structures or formerly occupied sites, and their settings for their archaeological and historical interest.	Access Routes, [illegible] Areas, Interpretive Program. Appreciation of Reso
IIIc	Distinctive topographic and vegetative features	Variable	Within urban areas RESOURCE ORIENTED	To create visual relief, provide non-polluting zones, to increase aesthetic values, improve form of urban development and retain scenic resources within urban area	NONE Appreciation of Resource
IVa	Outstanding features that merit special protection and possess high scenic or scientific importance at provincial or national level	Variable	RESOURCE ORIENTED	Protection of natural plant and animal communities in outstanding scenic landscapes. Protection of distinctive geological features.	Peripheral Access [illegible] Minimum Facilities, retation Program. Appreciation of Res
b	Large tract of undeveloped naturally vegetated land	+ 50 miles ^{2}	REMOTE FROM POPULATION CENTRES RESOURCE ORIENTED	Area in which wilderness recreation experience can be obtained.	
Va	Large tract of undeveloped naturally vegetated land	+ 50 miles ^{2}	REMOTE FROM POPULATION CENTRES RESOURCE ORIENTED	Area accessible only on foot	NONE
b	Undeveloped River & adjacent land	Variable			NONE

SYSTEM

MANAGEMENT	LEVEL OF USE	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	EXAMPLES
Very high input	As high as people can accept Psychological carrying capacity sets limit on use	Provincial Regional Municipal	Municipal Parks, Playgroun Zoological & Botanic Garde Municipal Recreation Facili Trails and Footpaths. School Grounds Mayfair Park
Very high input to maintain vegetation cover, control access and rotate used areas, etc. to allow user satisfaction	As high as people can accept taking care to maintain health and safety standards	Provincial Regional	Regional Parks, Forest Res Picnic Areas, Provincial P
Management sufficient to maintain facilities and prevent overuse and damage to natural environment. Focus on resource not users.	Hold use level to low intensity, prevent large concentrations of activity by good design and management techniques.	Provincial Regional Private	Provincial Parks, Forest Reserves, Conservation Ar Flood plains etc.

Management sufficient to protect resource and interpret its values	Hold use level to low intensity, prevent large concentrations of activity by good design and management techniques.	Provincial National Private	Fort Edmonton, Indian Sites
Minimum management to protect and retain resource	Hold use level to low intensity, prevent large concentrations of activity by good design and management techniques.	Provincial Regional Municipal	River Valley System in Edmonton & other urban centers
Management at level sufficient to protect the resource and provide ways of interpreti the values of the area	Hold use to minimum level - limit access, restrict activities, provide limited facilities Apply reservation system if overuse becomes apparent	National Provincial	Wood Buffalo National Park Dinosaur Provincial Park
Sufficient to achieve purpose of designating the area			Proposed Bloom-Sheep Area (See Alberta Wilderness Association Report)
No management, except on boundary to protect adjacent land use	Minimum	Provincial	)
		National	)
	Minimum		)

Additional categories of land use

RE: OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

	Purpose	Examples
Open space features in developed areas	To create visual relief To create non-polluntant producing zones, to increase aesthetic values, to improve the form of new development, and direct expansion, to retain natural scenic resources within the urban developed area.	Linear open space with connecting nodes, riverbanks, valleys, steep slopes, institut grounds, marshes, bogs, sloughs, flood plai
Ecological Reserves Size 30 to 40 square miles	To give a yardstick by which to monitor environmental change. Part of a global system of reserves and therefore of national significance.	Typical ecosystems such as grass lands, bor forest, tundra and alpine areas, and prairi pot holes.
Scientific Reserves Size 20 to 160 acres	To provide areas in which access can be limited and controlled to allow long-term data collection on various research aspects of managed ecosystems.	Land adjacent to urban areas which is essentially derelict. Reclaimed areas, areas of different biological productivity where various management technique experim can be conducted. Areas close to cities where they may be used for the purpose of environmental education.
Resource Use Area	To exploit a resource. Recreation could be a subordinate form of land use in such an area.	

Links - A system of interconnected hiking, canoeing, bicycling, and horseriding trails should be developed on a regional basis to allow access to a variety of recreation areas from population centers.

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